



RENTON TECHNICAL
COLLEGE FOUNDATION

A Year of Growth & Impact

2020 2021

RENTON TECHNICAL COLLEGE FOUNDATION
ANNUAL REPORT

Message From The President



KEVIN MCCARTHY
RTC PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,
This is a message that I always look forward to sharing with you, and since I've announced my retirement at the end of the academic year, this will be my last Annual Report message. My years as president of Renton Technical College have been rewarding beyond measure, and nothing has made me

prouder than seeing our students thrive, especially during the last uncertain year and a half during the pandemic.

You, our loyal donors, have played a huge role in that, and it has been a great pleasure to work with our excellent Foundation staff and dedicated board members who show up over and over to support our students. I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your gifts of time and treasure.

You have helped our students stay in school, graduate, and enter the workforce. From providing computers to every student, to helping pay for gas and groceries and funding scholarships and endowments, you have stood up for our students when they needed it most. I know together we will continue to find ways to open doors to opportunity for all students, especially those from traditionally underrepresented communities.

"You have helped us strengthen the college and the Foundation."

RTC is a special place, and I will miss you all when I leave. You have helped us strengthen the college and the Foundation. I extend my gratitude and look forward to accomplishing even more in the next six months. My wife, Marty, and I wish you all the best for the future.

Dr. Kevin McCarthy
President
Renton Technical College

Message From RTC Foundation President

The last 18 months have been extraordinary times for all of us. The pandemic has touched every business, industry, community, and, most importantly, our RTC students. Your partnership and unwavering support through these most challenging times has been remarkable.

As you peruse through the annual report, take time to celebrate all that we have been able to accomplish, both together and apart. We reached some incredible fundraising milestones—no less during a pandemic—in new and creative ways. And for that, I applaud you all.

The past year has been turbulent, and we continue to see a more significant number of needs for our students who struggle with added financial burdens due to the pandemic. Your continued support and partnership are critical to helping our students stay in school and on track with their goals. I'm glad to see our community step up to support what is essential: our future.



Brenda Collons
President,
RTC Foundation

STUDENT SUPPORT

Your impact on students by the numbers



\$420,000
DIRECT SUPPORT

Your gifts are a part of hundreds of success stories that represent changed lives and brighter futures. Because of your generosity, the Foundation hit another milestone of over \$420,000 in direct support to students through quarterly scholarships and emergency grants!

\$315,924
445 SCHOLARSHIPS

\$59,500
119 BOOK AND EQUIPMENT GRANTS

\$44,706
259 EMERGENCY GRANTS

ABOUT RTC | Renton Technical College meets students where they are and moves them forward to college and career success. RTC serves the needs of our diverse student body, as well as the community, businesses, and industry.

HIGHEST IN STATE
COMPLETION RATE
66
PERCENT

JOB PLACEMENT
82
PERCENT

STUDENTS OF COLOR
69
PERCENT

A Year of Growth & Impact

Students benefit from successful hands-on learning and new industry partnerships

The skills of RTC graduates are in high demand, and with a number of factors impacting the labor market, businesses see the value of making investments in students to help them achieve their training goals.

Three organizations; **Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace (SPEEA)**, **Hobart Services**, and **ATS Automation** were standouts this year providing generous scholarships through the Foundation.

The **SPEEA Aerospace Career Enhancement (ACE)** took flight in 2021 as part of a statewide effort to expand opportunities for students seeking careers in the aerospace industry. The ACE scholarships target veterans, spouses of active-duty military, and individuals in underserved populations. An added benefit of ACE is childcare assistance for students, a big plus for RTC's working parents.

"With Renton Technical College's strong aerospace programs, it was a natural partnership for the SPEEA ACE program, and more than likely these students will be colleagues at Boeing after graduating," Rule shared.

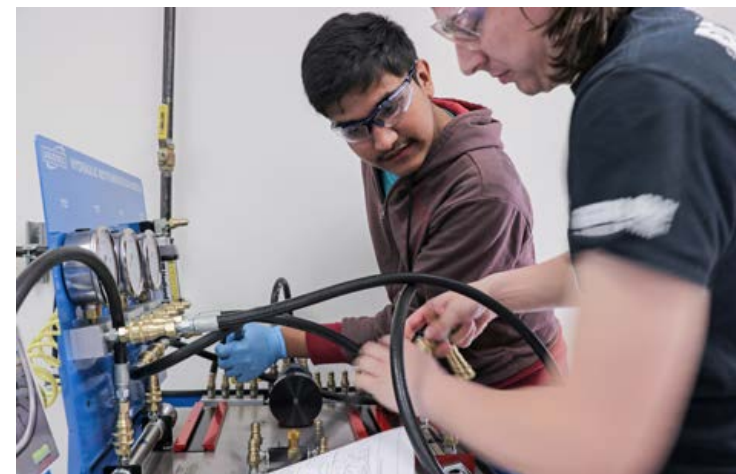
Over the past three years,



Hobart Services has provided valuable sponsorships, kitchen equipment, and scholarships for RTC students through the Foundation. A division of Illinois Tool Works (ITW), a Fortune 200 company, ITW is an international manufacturer of specialized industrial equipment, consumables, and related service businesses.

In 2021, Hobart established a full-ride scholarship through the Foundation that includes a paid internship for eligible students. Students in a number of trades programs at RTC can apply and given the high number students who work while going to school, the Hobart model is a major benefit.

Renton-based **ATS Automation** reached out to the Foundation in spring 2021, "Looking for ways to



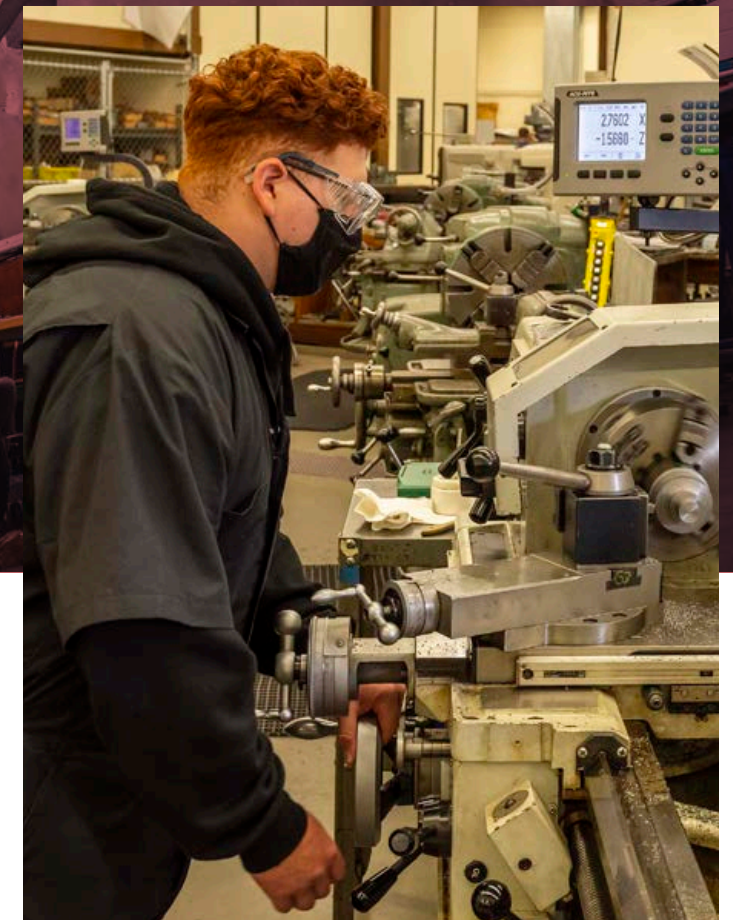
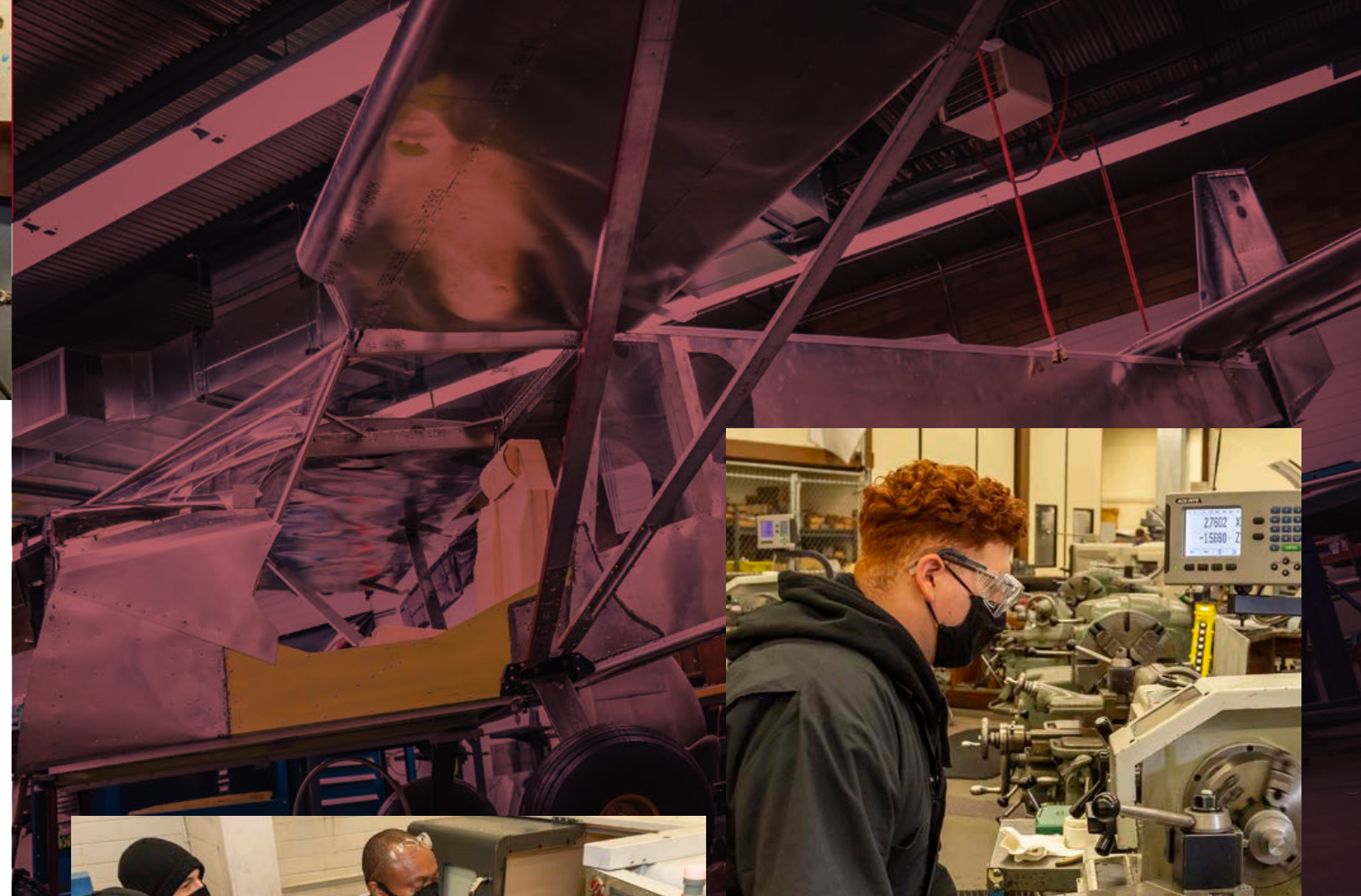
better engage with our local community, and especially to support education equity," said Bradley Allen, who heads up the company's community engagement efforts.

"Partnering with Renton Technical College to offer scholarships to students who have historically been underrepresented in STEM fields, was a natural fit," said Allen, "Renton Technical College has been great to work with and ATS couldn't be happier with our partnership!"



"Working with RTC to help attract new students, particularly from diverse and underserved populations, is vital to keeping our state's aerospace industry number one."

RYAN RULE,
SPEEA President



STUDENT PROFILES

Their stories. Their success.



Graciela Garcia, is a talented student working on her associate degree in Contemporary Business Administration. She is the recipient of the Josephine Belmondo Cugini Scholarship for Women. The Cugini scholarship recognizes the resilient and entrepreneurial spirit of women, especially immigrants, in honor of "Grandma Josephine" who immigrated to the United States from Italy in 1906.

What are your career goals and aspirations?

My career plans are to keep studying and earn a bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

I want to start and manage my own small business, apply what I learn, support my family, contribute to the growth, diversity,

and prosperity of the community, and to give back by helping others to achieve their goals.

What brought you to RTC?

I'm originally from Guatemala, where I worked as a nurse assistant at Hospital Infantil Juan Pablo II, a charity Catholic hospital focused on children.

The most life-changing experience for me was to become a mother. My first daughter was born with cerebral palsy. She experienced seizures, was partially blind, and was 100% dependent on my husband and me. I took care of her in every sense until she passed at the age of 12.

We moved to Washington State looking for a fresh start after our daughter's passing. It was during an economic recession and my husband and I could not find jobs. With a two-year old, it was a very difficult time. I finally got a job as a housekeeper in the hospitality industry and worked my way up to become a Housekeeping Supervisor. After 10 years I lost my job due to the pandemic.

While in quarantine I decided to go back to school and earn my high school diploma.

I came to this country with very little, not speaking the language, with a special-needs child, and by overcoming obstacles and tribulations, I gained strength, resiliency, and determination. Today I can say, I'm very grateful to God, my family, and this great country.

Who has made a difference in your life at RTC?

My Spanish high school teacher, Alma Meza.

After many years out of school, I was a bit nervous. I wasn't computer savvy and had never done a zoom class. Miss Meza's capabilities and knowledge went beyond the classroom, her patience, and ability to relate to people were amazing.

I will never forget the time she shared her story with the class about what she went through as an immigrant and how she overcame pain to now thrive in her life. The courage to share her story was very inspiring to me and helped me change. Though my fears and insecurities might still linger inside, I'm determined to work hard and not give up on my dreams and hopes.

"One of the many great things in this country is education, I plan to graduate and give back to the community, especially to people like me, with so many obstacles and so many dreams but no means to pursue them."

GRACIELA GARCIA

Ahmed Alkhafaji - BAS Computer Network Engineering

Ahmed is in the final quarters of earning his bachelor's degree. He and his family came to the United States as refugees from Iraq in 2014 with the help of Lutheran Resettlement Services in Florida. The Alkhafajis have five children including two who are on the autism spectrum. While providing for his family and adjusting to life in the U.S. has been challenging, Ahmed is excited about his future. His instructors have praised him as an exceptional and talented student who is engaged in the classroom and as a member of RTC's Computer Networking Club. He is the first recipient of the Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace (SPEEA) Aerospace Career Enhancement scholarship at RTC. Here is his story.

How will the SPEEA scholarship help you reach your education goals?

I have always had an interest in technology and its progressive advancements in various fields. My great passion is to invent and build useful technology for humanity. When I was young, my love for math, physics, and electronic devices expanded my horizons and I set my sights on pursuing my academic career. The SPEEA scholarship provides me the opportunity to get some time off work and to focus on my education. I am committed to achieve excellence in my college work and to improve my skills.

"We came to the United States as refugees and from the beginning we had a dream to be successful and self-sufficient. I am working hard and will never give up. I want to be the father that my kids will be proud of."

AHMED ALKHAFAJI

This scholarship is a great opportunity for me and helps to support my family under hard circumstances. With two autistic kids who need a lot of care, it's a big challenge, but I am insistent to make this dream come true.

What are your career plans?

It is often asserted that entering the Stone Age is no different from entering the Information Age; those who get the best tools will survive. I aspire to become a computer specialist who commands advanced technological tools in this modern world. Studying computer networking at RTC gives me an opportunity to gain a good foundation to further my education in computer

networking, Network Management and Control, Network Flow Optimization, Network Configuring and Troubleshooting, Information Security.

After graduating in 2022 I hope to work as a data scientist. I am confident that the curriculum, online course structure, and real-world approach during the Data Science program offered at the RTC will serve a critical role in my life.



New endowments reflect forever gifts

Legacy giving this year through the Foundation included the creation of three new endowments. While each family and organization defined the purpose and meaning of their endowment, the scholarships represent “forever gifts” that create a lasting benefit for future students and their families.

Benjamin Phelps Memorial Endowment for Automotive Careers

For the Phelps-Wenzel family, creating an endowment for automotive students was a

life-affirming way to honor the memory of their son Benjamin, a 2020 graduate of the automotive program, and to capture the joy he experienced through his love of cars and the many ways he used his mechanical skills to help others.

Ben’s parents Diane and Tom, along with family and friends, established the Benjamin Phelps Memorial Endowment for Automotive Careers to provide scholarships for automotive students at RTC.

During his time at RTC, Ben’s instructors called him a model student who was always excited to be in class and eager to apply his lessons learned in lab. “Establishing an endowed

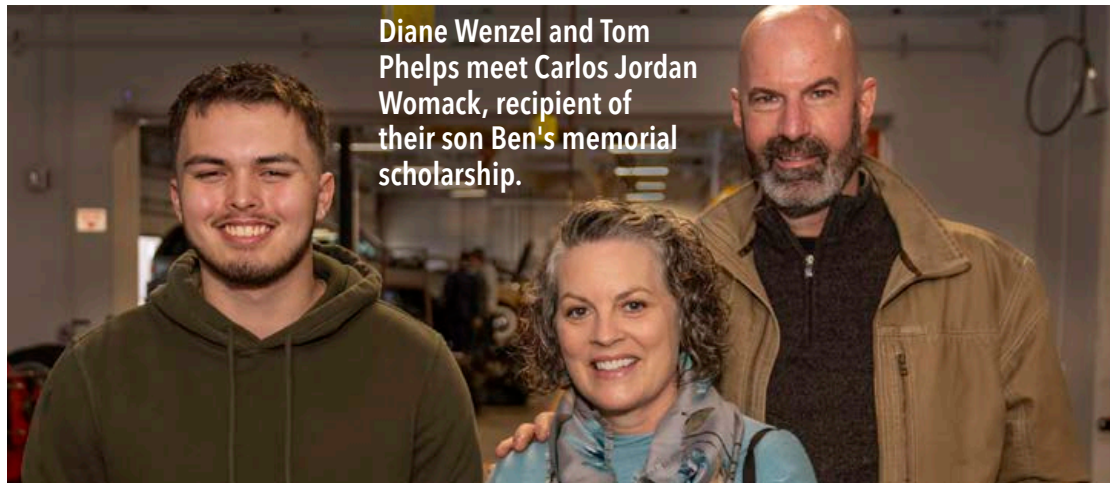


Any car Ben Phelps touched always operated and looked in top shape.

scholarship in Ben’s memory allows his generous spirit to live on,” shared his parents.

“We feel this is a beautiful way to honor Ben’s legacy with those who share his passion for automotive technology.”

Diane Wenzel and Tom Phelps meet Carlos Jordan Womack, recipient of their son Ben’s memorial scholarship.



Abdul Fiday is a recipient of the Benjamin Phelps scholarship and in his final quarter at RTC

Did you know endowments are philanthropy that anyone can do?

Does it bring you joy at the thought of students achieving their dreams with the resources they need to succeed?

When you create an endowment, you are creating a forever gift that benefits students in perpetuity. Like the Phelps-Wenzels,

Lesmeisters, and the Chaine-Seattle, they are directing gifts now to build future opportunities for students in meaningful ways. It’s called a legacy, and the beauty of an endowment is how it grows into sizable support for years to come.

If you would like to learn more about creating an endowed scholarship, please reach out to **Carrie Shaw** at cshaw@rtc.edu, or **(425) 235-2415**.

Chaine des Rotisseurs–Seattle Bailliage Endowment

For Betty Sasenick and Robert Cugini, leadership through the Chaine Seattle is about embracing growth and opportunity. That is why the two led the charge to create a new endowed scholarship. Their goal was to build on the past Chaine work to support culinary students at RTC and to further the Chaine values of fellowship around fabulous food.

The focus of the endowed scholarship is to foster excellence in the next generation of culinary professionals and to provide an enduring investment and valuable financial support to students for years to come.



Left to right: Chaine Seattle past-president, Robert Cugini, Foundation Executive Director, Carrie Shaw, and Betty Sasenick, Chaine Seattle president and national board member.

“We have now left a legacy gift from the Chaine Seattle for future members to continue to grow our endowment.”

BETTY SASENICK

Thresa Smart-Benjamin Endowment for Women

Since 2017, long-time faculty member Michele Lesmeister and her father, Max Benjamin, a well-known Northwest artist, have provided generous scholarships for women transitioning from College and Career Pathway programs to RTC college-credit programs. Named in memory of Michele’s mother, Thresa Smart-Benjamin, the scholarships

have been a huge financial boost, especially for students who don’t qualify for financial aid or who might need to fill funding gaps to pay for tuition, supplies, and books.

The Thresa Smart-Benjamin Endowment for Women is an outgrowth of their annual scholarship and captures the family’s desire to see career growth and opportunities realized for future generations of students.



“My mother worked for equity for women in her many venues, and encouraged women to become their best selves through education. This endowment captures that spirit, and our family’s love of learning and support for the RTC community.”

MICHELE LESMEISTER

Diners say bravo to Shota Nakajima at Celebrity Chef event

On Nov. 10th the RTC Demonstration Kitchen came alive with 48 guests and the laughter of Seattle-based Chef Shota Nakajima. The event was RTC Foundation's first in-person fund-raiser since January 2020 and raised over \$65,000 to support culinary students – the most raised since the dinners relaunched in 2017 in honor of the late Norma Cugini.

A true culinary showman, Chef Shota delighted guests with an exclusive menu while viewers followed the event live online and enjoyed takeout versions of his delicious dishes. Well known sommelier, Bruce Sturgeon, provided the wine pairing for the four-course dinner.

RTC students prepared the dinner and had the opportunity to cook with and learn from Nakajima and his Culinary Director Nick Springer. "This is an important event for the culinary industry," Nakajima said acknowledging the value of the evening to students.

A rising star on the national stage, Chef Shota's good-natured chuckle and cheerful demeanor earned him the title of Fan Favorite during the 18th season of Bravo TV's Top Chef, and his exquisite Japanese cuisine a slot in the finals of the hit show.

Nakajima answered questions about his road to success, his time on television, and his hopes for future chefs, as he demonstrated his black cod dish with his signature three-ingredient puree that won him acclaim on Top Chef.

His road to success?

"School was hard for me, but working in the kitchen, giving every-thing I had, showing up on time, made me feel successful," he said.

After dropping out of high school, he returned to his native Japan to learn the art of Japanese cuisine, working with acclaimed and Michelin Star-rated Chef Yasuhiko

Sakamoto. He achieved his goal of opening his first restaurant in Seattle, Adana, by age 25, and then opened his second, Taku, a few days before the COVID-19 shutdown. Closing Adana, being alone during quarantine, and then reaching fame on Top Chef, all gave him time to re-evaluate what he wanted to do.

"My inspiration is making sure people become the best versions of themselves," he said. "I would rather people aren't afraid to make mistakes, because that means I'm a good boss. I want to teach those who work for me to have self-value, because that wasn't taught to me early."

He told culinary students to seek those who share those values:

"Surround yourself with good peers, good vibe people who motivate you and help you push your dreams."



Shota Nakajima and RTC's Culinary Team with Chef Tony Parker



Thank you to our dinner hosts, patrons, and sponsors for their generous gifts that made this fabulous event possible:

DINNER HOSTS

Crissa Cugini
Cathy Cugini O'Neill & Sean O'Neill
Mary & Robert Cugini

PATRONS

Nancy Bowman
Bernadene & Dennis Dochnahl
Leslie & Jerome Hewlett
Cecilia & Stanley Pollock
Anne Simpson & Charlie Conner
Kim & Brian Unti

Special thanks to Chelsea Farms for providing the oyster bar

Presenting Sponsor



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Platinum sponsor



President Kevin McCarthy reflects on his seven years at RTC

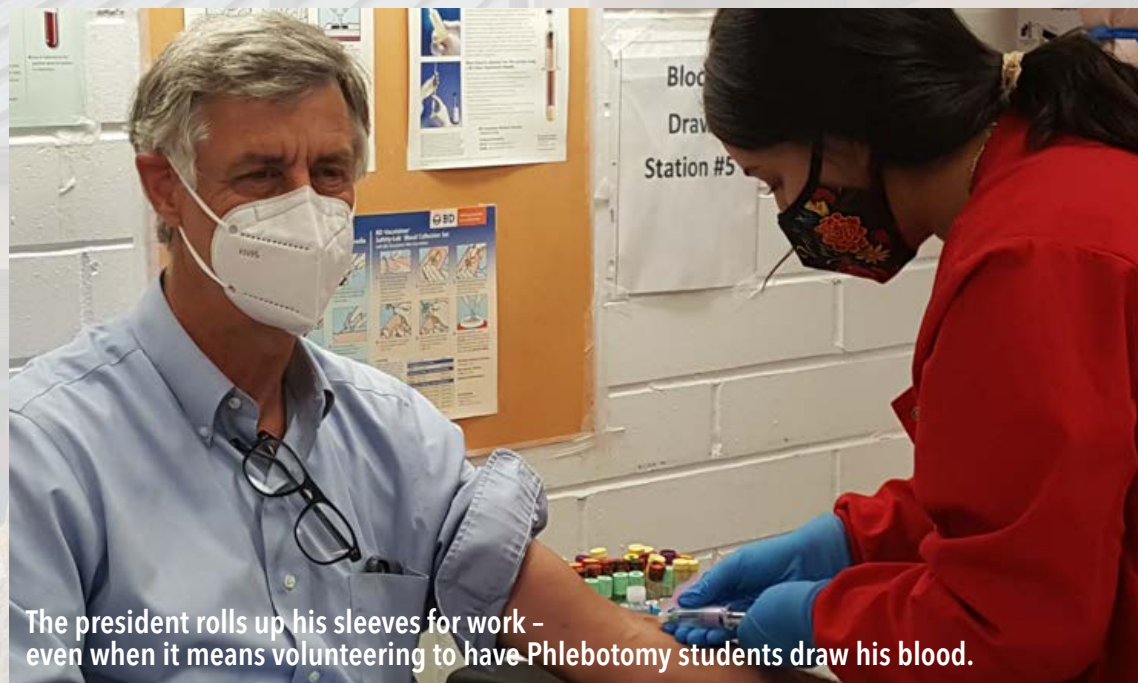
RTC President Kevin McCarthy will retire at the end of the academic year, leaving a record of success. Frequently seen walking around campus in his signature cowboy boots, he is known to all as "Kevin" and for his ability to learn and remember everyone's name.

Under McCarthy's leadership, RTC completed its seven-year accreditation in the spring and is entering the final year of its Strategic Plan. In June, the college received a \$5 million gift from MacKenzie Scott and Dan Jewett. The Aspen Institute recognized RTC for the fifth time this fall for its commitment to student success and equity.

McCarthy, who received the 2021 Chief Executive Officer Award from the Washington State Association of College Trustees (ACT) and was one of 25 presidents in the country selected for the inaugural Aspen Institute New Presidents Fellowship, is reluctant to talk about himself and emphasizes that he sees all the college's accomplishments as a collaborative effort. Still, he agreed to sit down for a conversation about his tenure with Tyler Page, a member of the Board of Trustees who helped select McCarthy in 2015 and also serves as the Board liaison to the RTC Foundation Board.

Q: What initially attracted you to RTC?

A: I knew of the reputation, especially the completion rate, the highest in the state. As the vice president for instruction at Lake Washington, I always scratched my head, wondering how they were getting this done? I thought the combination of the professional-technical programs and the Adult Basic Education suited my background. And, of course, the diversity of the student body and the mission – all of that was very attractive. It was the only presidency I applied for, because I thought it was a great fit. I was just ecstatic when I got the position.



The president rolls up his sleeves for work – even when it means volunteering to have Phlebotomy students draw his blood.

Q: What are you most proud of during your time as President?

A: You know this is a weird interview because it's focused on me, which is not really me. Everything that happens is a collective accomplishment.

Q: You deserve to be proud of things.

A: I am proud of things, but I want to emphasize that they are very collective. I was very glad to receive a commendation from our seven-year accreditation team on the hiring and retention of faculty and staff of color and the movement we have made to make our employees better reflect our student community. Our Student Services staff offers services in 11 languages, which reflects our students and enhances our ability to serve them.

Our diversity has allowed people at the college to influence at the state level, such as starting the Administrators of Color Program, strongly supporting the Faculty of Color mentoring program, and sending many to the Social Justice Leadership Institute. At the Faculty and Staff of Color Conference, our presenters blew people away, and I had legislators and trustees from other colleges tell me they were very impressed.

I'm very proud of the college's response to COVID and our ability to continue hands-on training in a safe setting. Our enrollments



are coming back faster than others, and I know that our switch to e-learning went much smoother than in many other places. Foundation Executive Director Carrie Shaw's relationships with donors made it easy to get monies to support the technology we needed for every student.

I'm proud of our capital improvements, from the K Building, for which I cannot take credit, to our pursuit of the public health property across the street for the future Health Sciences Center. And we have gone through some tight financial times, and we've come out of them, so we now have healthy reserves and we've been able to bring financial strength to the college.

Outside recognition is valuable, and so clearly the unsolicited gift from MacKenzie Scott and Dan Jewett is something to be proud of because it speaks to what the college has been able to do over a long period of time. All of this positions the college to attract a strong leader to succeed me.

Q: How would you capture the spirit of RTC, and what will you miss most?

A: The spirit of the college is very welcoming. We've had so many visitors come – legislators, State Board staff, and others –

and they always remark on a what a friendly campus we have. And I think that only really happens if people are enjoying working here and learning here. People are engaged in the college and positive about it. They have good attitudes, and they share that with other people.

I always joke that I play hooky by going to class. I've really enjoyed that, and I think that the President visiting faculty, staff, or students in their workspaces would be seen as suspect at some colleges. Here, I was amazed from the get-go how open people were to having me in their classrooms and workspaces. I think they're just really proud of their work and they want to share it. And I want to know people's names and know about them. Like I have said, people don't care what you know until they know that you care.

Of course, experiencing the diversity of our student body and faculty and staff is tremendous. I love hearing different languages spoken and people feeling comfortable doing that. Those are the things that capture the spirit of RTC. And those are the things I will also miss.

Q: Any last thoughts?

A: I have felt so fortunate that the college community has allowed me to grow as a leader and as a person. That is what I wish for everyone at the college.

Kevin McCarthy loves to talk to students and visitors, learning their names, hearing their stories, and drawing them to RTC.



2020-21 Financial Report

Brenda Collons, President
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 Reba Haas, Vice President of Membership
 Lori Inman, Secretary
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 Marco Manuello
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 Tyler Page, Board of Trustees Liaison

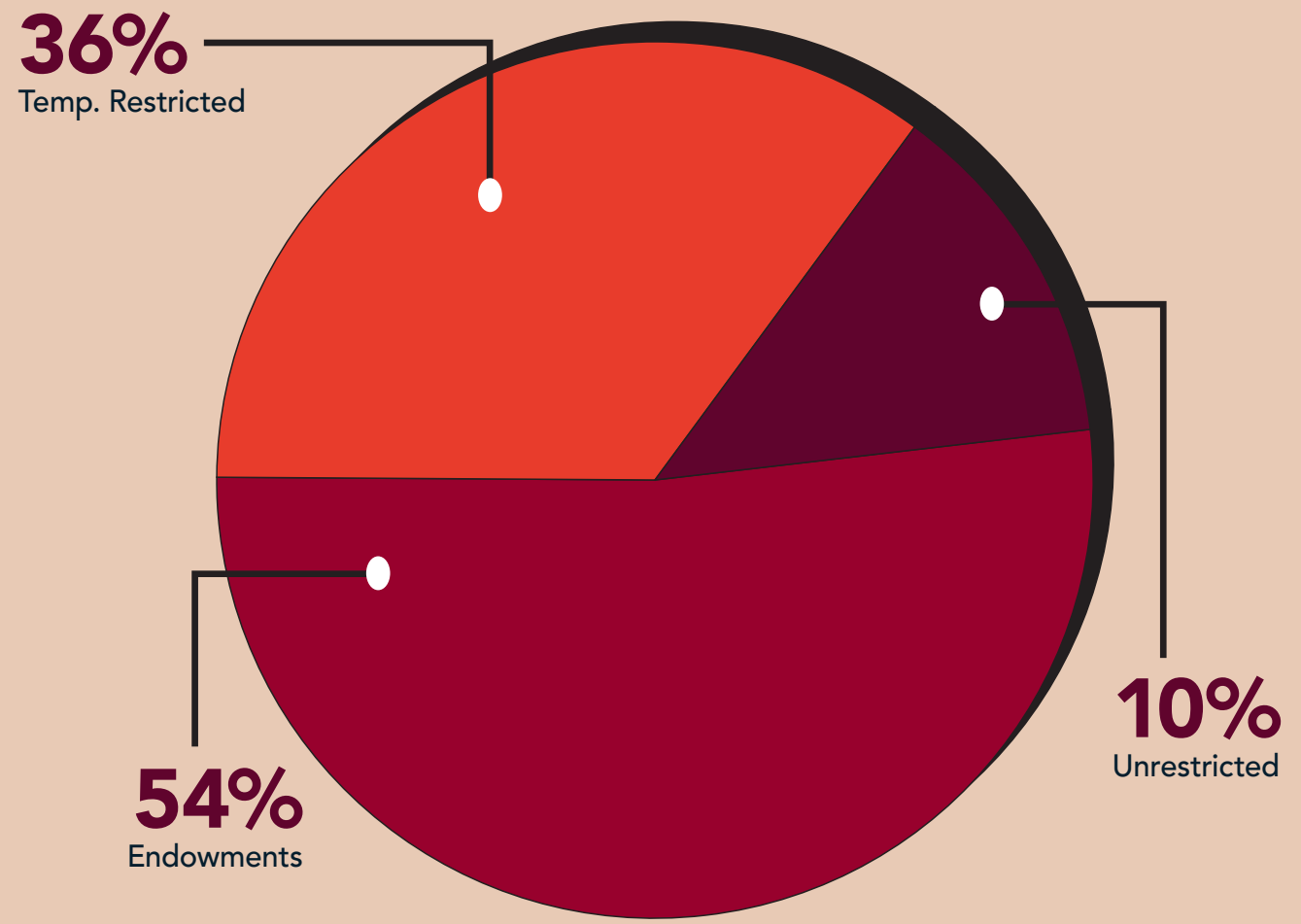
The Foundation received a clean bill of financial health from our independent auditor, Brantley Janson, during the 2019-20 annual audit. We are committed to transparency and best accounting practices.

BEGINNING BALANCE	9% (U)
JULY 1, 2020	24% (TR)
Unrestricted (U): \$206,857.95	
Temp. Restricted (TR): \$547,985.89	
Endowments (E): \$1,530,238.71	67% (E)
Total: \$2,285,082.55	

TOTAL REVENUE	13% (U)
Unrestricted (U): \$142,616.00	35% (TR)
Temp. Restricted (TR): \$382,237.06	
Endowments (E): \$576,876.94	52% (E)
Total: \$1,101,730.00	

TOTAL EXPENSES	12% (U)
Unrestricted (U): \$64,001.00	35% (TR)
Temp. Restricted (TR): \$190,908.90	
Endowments (E): \$288,122.10	55% (E)
Total: \$543,032.00	

ENDING BALANCE	
JUNE 30, 2021	
TOTAL: \$ 2,834,564.25	



Student Representatives

Jane-Erika Bangcuyo
 An Hoang

RTC Ex Officio Members

Dr. Kevin McCarthy, President
 Eduardo Rodriguez, Vice President, Administration & Finance
 Carrie Shaw, Foundation Executive Director

Emeritus Board Members

*Norma Cugini
 Denny Dochnahl
 *Andee Jorgensen
 Stan Kawamoto
 Pat Newbury
 Dr. Robert C. Roberts
 *Posthumous members

Student Success Week raises over \$104,000 for scholarships

The community stepped up to support students during the May 20th virtual event, which included the inspiring stories of computer science student Karen Rodriguez, and machining student Khai Hirano, and the first Corporate Generosity Spotlight Award to Renton Concrete Recyclers. Keynote speaker Emily Parkhurst, former Publisher of the Puget Sound Business Journal, shared the economy is rebounding from the pandemic, and RTC graduates are vital to fill workforce needs.



Many thanks to our Platinum scholarship sponsors



Gold scholarship sponsors Goodwill Seattle, IAM 751, Kaiser Permanente, King County Housing Authority, Renton Housing Authority, Republic Services, and RTC Associated Student Government.

“Schools like RTC can be nimble, reacting to the current and future needs of this region’s employers. We need more creative solutions to make sure all students have equal access to the incredible opportunities our employers are providing.”
EMILY PARKHURST

THE GRATITUDE LIST

2020-21 Foundation Donors

LEGACY

Gifts of over \$100,000

Chaine des Rotisseurs - Seattle Bailliage
Norma & Alex Cugini*
Estate of Eva C. Gordon
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IKEA
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Paccar Foundation
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Gifts of \$15,000 to \$24,999

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Pacific Northwest Aerospace Alliance
Karen & Tyler Page
Jan Pelroy
Diane Wenzel & Thomas A. Phelps
Cecilia Pollock
RealNetworks Foundation
Renton Housing Authority
Robert C. Roberts
Special Vehicle Team Owners Association (SVTOA)
Melanie Tait & Steven Hanson
Kim & Brian Unti
United States Marine Corps Support Group
Urban Renaissance Group
US Bank
Joan Wenzel
Merna & A. Lee Wheeler

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

Gifts of \$10,000 to \$14,999

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Building Changes
Terri & John Calnan
Brenda & Steven Charlston
Columbia Bank

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Crissa Cugini
Judith Frey
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Valley Medical Center
Washington Youth Development Nonprofit Relief Fund
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International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 286
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SPEEA-Aerospace Career Enhancement
Stearns-Shaw Family Foundation
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US Bank Foundation
Jinny & Craig Wesson
Heather & Jake Winfrey
Anne M. Zvirblis
Martha & Richard Zwicker

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Gifts of \$1,000 to \$4,999

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Aerospace Joint Apprenticeship Committee (AJAC)
All Pro Building Maintenance, Inc.
Sally Jo & Kenneth Allen
Ameriprise
Anonymous
Arcora Foundation
Norma Arthur
ATS Automation
Paul Baeder
Barry Baker
Bank of America
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Boeing Employee Community Fund
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Nancy Bowman
Brantley Janson Yost & Ellison
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